

# **BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, January 12, 2015**

**The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 12, 2015, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, John Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 PM.**

**Present: John Bento, Chair; Paul Silva, Vice-Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Erin Schofield and Lynn Wainwright; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy & Title 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration and Finance**

## **OPENING BUSINESS**

**All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jock Hayes, Chairperson of the Bristol Warren Education Foundation, promoted the upcoming 7th Annual Bodacious Bee, an adult spelling bee, which will be held on March 7th at Roger Williams University.**

## **PROGRAM OF STUDIES PRESENTATION**

**Ms. Jen Copeland, Guidance Assistant Principal, began the presentation by stating that the 2015-2016 Program of Studies was sent electronically to school committee members last week for their review. Ms. Copeland then offered to answer School Committee member questions regarding changes to the Program of Studies.**

**Several school committee members asked questions pertinent to particular changes made to the Program of Studies. Ms. Copeland responded by giving a brief overview of the rationale behind all the modifications made to the 2015-2016 Program of Studies.**

## **UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS**

**Mrs. Silva shared a brief history regarding the rationale for the Rhode Island Department of Education to enact the Uniform Chart of Accounts. Mrs. Silva highlighted the benefits of UCOA for the District individually and for the Districts throughout the State as a whole.**

**Mrs. Silva shared an example from the FY 2012-2013 UCOA Segment Analysis which is a Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) generated, high level analysis, comparing Rhode Island school's regionals and state spending. Mrs. Silva explained the details of categories contained within the analysis.**

**Mr. DePasquale requested a detailed printout of the RIDE generated**

## **UCOA Segment Analysis.**

**Mr. Saviano suggested that Mrs. Silva share the UCOA Presentation with the Town Councils. Chairman Bento responded that a UCOA presentation will be given at the next Joint Finance Committee meeting which has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 5th at 7 p.m. and will be held in Bristol's Burnside Building. Chairman Bento added that a new president to the Joint Finance Committee will be elected at the February 5th meeting as well. Mr. DePasquale stated that an agenda will be posted.**

**To aid in the School Department's preparation of the FY16 budget request, Chairman Bento invited all town officials to provide school budget related questions prior to the annual Joint Finance Committee meeting in March.**

**Mrs. Silva continued her presentation by explaining details of Bristol Warren's live General Ledger, a detailed report of the School Department's fund allocations categorized by code.**

**Mrs. McBride requested that Bristol Warren Regional School Department's code sheet be published on the District website. Mrs. Silva responded that she will add a link to the Rhode Island Uniform Chart of Accounts Guide for function codes onto the District website**

**Mr. Brian Clark, a Bristol resident, requested the current total number**

of Bristol Warren students. Mrs. Silva responded that the average daily membership to date is 3332. In 2013-2014, the school year average daily membership was 3395.

Mrs. Silva closed the UCOA presentation by highlighting the benefits to the school district in using the Uniform Chart of Accounts for accounting purposes.

Dr. Andrade commended Mrs. Silva's leadership as the Director of Administration and Finance adding that Bristol Warren Regional School District has been a front runner in utilizing the Uniform Chart of Accounts.

Chairman Bento thanked Mrs. Silva for her efforts, and praised the District for their transparency regarding the budget.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #S2014-84 – Home School Requests**

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of (1) family to home school their children for the 2014-2015 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

**MOTION:** Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the request to home school as read; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

**DISCUSSION:** Mrs. McBride asked if the family requesting to homeschool was new to the District. Dr. Andrade responded that the family applied for homeschooling in November, but due to limited School Committee meetings in November and December, it didn't come before the Committee until tonight's meeting. Dr. Andrade added that the family has been homeschooling for the past two months and has been very compliant.

Mrs. Wainwright asked whether the students are aware that they will not participate in graduation exercises with their peers. Dr. Andrade responded that the students are present during homeschooling conversations with the parents and are fully aware of the consequences of their decisions.

Mr. DePasquale asked whether a homeschool family can enter back into the District after homeschooling and whether there is an aptitude test to be accepted back into the school. Dr. Andrade responded that a local assessment is given to returning students who have been homeschooled. Dr. Andrade added that students cannot be denied entry into the District from homeschooling.

The motion passed with a 7-1 vote; Mrs. McBride dissenting.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #S2014-85**

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, move the Mt. Hope High School Field Project forward

**for DEM approval.**

**MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to move the Mt. Hope High School Field Project forward for DEM approval; seconded by Mrs. McBride.**

**DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride stated that the motion before the School Committee to move the Mt. Hope High School Field Project forward for DEM approval is process related. In order for PARE Engineering to move forward with the plans, DEM must approve. Mrs. McBride stated that all steps involving the MHHS Field Project will come before the full School Committee for a vote. Mr. O'Dell asked whether the plans would need to go back to DEM for approval if changes are made. Mrs. McBride responded that the plans would only need to be "tweaked" and would not need to go back to DEM.**

**Mrs. McBride stated that the Administration has chosen option 1 of PARE Engineering's MHHS Field plans.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

### **School Visits**

**Chairman Bento reported the following dates scheduled for the School Committee Chair School Visits:**

- **Wed., January 14th; 9:30 – 10:30; Rockwell**
- **Wed., January 14th; 11:00 – 12:00; Colt Andrews**
- **Thurs., January 15th; 8:15 – 9:15; KMS**
- **Thurs., January 15th; 9:45 – 10:45; Guiteras**
- **Thurs., January 15th; 11:15 – 12:15; Hugh Cole**
- **Thurs., January 22nd; 9:00 – 10:00; MHHS**

**He invited School Committee members to participate.**

**Chairman Bento stated that he is visiting the schools to meet with the Principals and primary staff to discuss two areas the schools are celebrating, and two goals the schools have set. He will then complete a walk-through of the schools. Chairman Bento stated that he will report back to the School Committee with the results of those discussions.**

### **Joint Finance Committee Meeting**

**Chairman Bento reiterated that the Joint Finance Committee meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 5th at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Burnside Building in Bristol.**

### **Phone/Email Directory**

**Chairman Bento requested that the School Committee members inform the secretary to the School Committee of their preference for email use, District email or personal email.**

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Chairman Bento reported that Mrs. Campbell will be requesting input for the School Committee Goals. She will be developing a high level outline of goals based on the Committee's input. A short meeting will be held prior to the School Committee meeting on January 26th to review the School Committee Goals outline. A follow-up meeting will be held to discuss a timeline for implementing the School Committee Goals.**

**Chairman Bento stated that the Superintendent Goals will be discussed at the business meeting in January.**

**Mrs. Wainwright requested a workshop discussion regarding the high level of tardiness within the District.**

## **ADJOURNMENT – 8:28 PM**

**MOTION: At 8:27 PM Mr. Saviano motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. McBride.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/kd**